

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1767

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, CSCE

SUBJECT: CSCE AND WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION -- MARCH 27 SPC DISCUSSIONS

REF: USNATO 1702

SUMMARY: ON MARCH 27, SPC HELD INITIAL DISCUSSION OF IS DRAFT PAPER ON PUBLIC OPINION ASPECTS OF CSCE. MOST CONSISTENT REACTION WAS THAT WHILE PAPER WAS A GOOD "FIRST-CUT", IT EMPHASIZED NEGATIVE CSCE ASPECTS. IS RE-DRAFT WILL ATTEMPT BETTER BALANCE WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON WESTERN CSCE ACHIEVEMENTS TO SUPPORT A SUMMIT-LEVEL FINALE. IS RE-DRAFT WILL BE AVAILABLE EARLY IN FIRST WEEK OF APRIL PRIOR TO NEXT SPC DISCUSSION ON APRIL 7. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 27, SPC DISCUSSED IS DRAFT CSCE/PR PAPER (REFTEL). MOST DELEGATIONS WERE WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN RECENT DISTRIBUTION OF IS DRAFT. SEVERAL, HOWEVER, WELCOMED IS EFFORT AS USEFUL ATTEMPT TO FOCUS DEBATE. ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, MAJORITY OF ALLIES FELT PAPER STRESSED DISADVANTAGES TO WEST OF CSCE AND THAT POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS JUSTIFYING ALLIED PARTICIPATION IN A HELSINKI SUMMIT MUST RECEIVE ADDITIONAL COVERAGE.

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2. IN OPENING DISCUSSION, NETHERLANDS REP (BUWALDA) SUGGESTED THAT PAPER PRESENT A MORE BALANCED PICTURE AS DUTCH WERE PROCEEDING ON PREMISE THAT BALANCED RESULTS WOULD IN FACT BE ACHIEVED IN GENEVA. IN THIS CONTEXT, BUWALDA SAID

DUTCH GOVERNMENT WAS NO LONGER WORRIED ABOUT PUBLIC POST-CSCE EUPHORIA SINCE POSTURE IT HAS TAKEN IN PUBLIC HAD ALREADY SUCCEEDED IN FOSTERING A REALISTIC UNDERSTANDING OF PROSPECTIVE CSCE RESULTS. INDEED, DUTCH PUBLIC OPINION WAS ALREADY SHIFTING ITS INTEREST TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MBFR.

3. BUWALDA AND OTHERS MADE REFERENCE TO U.S. SUGGESTION THAT SPECIFIC WESTERN ACCOMPLISHMENTS RECEIVE PROPER EMPHASIS AND PLACEMENT IN PUBLIC TREATMENT OF CSCE. FOR EXAMPLE, WESTERN ACHIEVEMENTS IN BASKET III, I.E., FAMILY REUNIFICATION, GREATER FREEDOMS FOR JOURNALISTS, ETC. SHOULD BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED BOTH IN SPC PAPER AND IN PRESENTING CSCE RESULTS.

4. FRG REP (BOSS) SUGGESTED THAT STRUCTURE OF PAPER BE CHANGED WITH CURRENT PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 5 PLACED AMONG GENERAL COMMENTS AND SECTION LABELED "DETAILED POINTS" RESERVED FOR TREATMENT OF SPECIFIC CONTENTS IN EACH OF CSCE BASKETS.

5. IN OTHER COMMENTS ON IS DRAFT, SEVERAL ALLIES SUGGESTED CHANGE IN OPENING PARAGRAPH (SENTENCE 2) TO AVOID IMPLICATION THAT WEST WAS PLAYING INTO SOVIET PROPAGANDA HANDS BY AGREEING TO SUMMIT FINALE.

6. SEVERAL ALLIES (GERMANS, CANADIANS, BRITISH, BELGIANS, ALSO QUESTIONED LANGUAGE IN PARA 4 (II) SINCE PUBLIC HANDLING OF CSCE SHOULD SOMEHOW REFLECT ALLIED INTEREST IN PROCESS OF GRADUAL CHANGE IN EAST. MOREOVER, REFERENCE TO PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE SHOULD NOT PREJUDICE ALTERED SOVIET DEFINITION OF TERM USED BY BREZHNEV DURING WILSON VISIT TO MOSCOW (USNATO 955 AND USNATO A-59). NETHERLANDS REP SAID THAT EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS HAD DISCUSSED PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE DEFINITION AT THEIR LATEST MEETING. ALLIES EXPRESSED INTEREST IN LEARNING RESULTS OF EC THINKING AND HOPE THAT THEY CAN BE FACTORED INTO SPC STUDY.

7. UK REP (SINTON) SUGGESTED THAT PAPER MIGHT BE BETTER TAILORED FOR END-USERS, E.G., PRESS SPOKESMEN, SPEECH WRITERS, ETC., BY SUMMARIZING MAJOR WESTERN CSCE ACHIEVEMENTS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
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OBJECTIVES AT THE OUTSET OF THE PAPER.

8. AT CLOSE OF MEETING, SPC CHAIRMAN (KILLHAM) AGREED THAT IS WOULD PRODUCE REVISED DRAFT FOR CIRCULATION SOON AFTER EASTER PRIOR TO NEXT SPC DISCUSSION ON CSCE/PR ON APRIL 7. NATO INFORMATION COMMITTEE (CICR) WOULD ALSO ADDRESS CSCE/PR ISSUES IN ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS WHICH INFORMATION SPECIALISTS MAY HAVE IN HANDLING CSCE. CICR CHAIRMAN WOULD THEN BRIEF SPC AT ITS NEXT MEETING. PEREZ

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